

**Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Virginia Recreational Trail Fund  
Project Selection Criteria**

1. To what extent does the proposal meet the trail needs identified in the *Virginia Outdoors Plan*?

Is this trail specifically identified as a need in the VOP?

If yes, score 10 points.

If not a specific need in VOP but the proposal addresses a general trail need identified in the VOP, score 6 points.

Is this trail a specific need identified in a locally adopted Trail Plan?

If yes AND the Trail Plan was included as part of grant submission score 5 points.

2. Is the proposal for rehabilitation of an existing facility? Determine the trail type and score accordingly. (Use Appendices to identify Trunk Line, Designated and Virginia Tourism Trails)

If a Trunk line trail, score 10 points

If a Designated trail or Virginia Tourism Trail, Score 8 points

If a Regional trail, score 7 points

If a Connector trail, score 6 points

If a Major local trail, score 5 points

If a Contained trail score, 4 points

If a trail qualifies for more than one type, score once, using the highest scoring type for which it qualifies.

3. Is the proposal for construction of a new facility? Determine the trail type and score accordingly. (Use Appendices to identify Trunk Line, Designated and Virginia Tourism Trails)

If a Trunk line trail, score 10 points

If a Designated trail or Virginia Tourism Trail, Score 8 points

If a Regional trail, score 7 points

If a Connector trail, score 6 points

If a Major local trail, score 5 points

If a Contained trail score, 4 points

If a trail qualifies for more than one type, score once, using the highest scoring type for which it qualifies.

4. Does this project tie together 1) historic, 2) cultural, 3) designated scenic or 4) recreational sites or provide 5) educational opportunities?

If project ties together and provides all 5 items, score 10 points

Three to Four items, score Rating 5 points

One item, score 3 points

5. Is this a multi-use facility?

Trail usage includes 1) Hiking/Walking/Jogging/Running 2) Motorcycling Four-Wheel Driving 3) Bicycling 4) Equestrian 5) ATV

If the facility allows 3 or more uses score, 10 points.

If the facility allows 2 uses, score 5 points

6. Does this trail demonstrate a partnership between the health community and local community that will provide health prevention programmed use of the trail?

If programs occur monthly, score 10 points

If programs occur for 6 months of the year, score 5 points

If programs occur 2 to 4 months of the year, score 3 points

7. Will the project facilitate access for or increase usage by trail users with disabilities?

If accessibility will be provided along entire length of trail, score 10 points

If accessibility will be provided along at least half the trail length, score 8 points

If accessibility will be provided on less than a third of the trail length, score 3 points.

8. Does the project provide urban trail linkage between 1) neighborhoods, 2) work places, 3) schools, 4) recreational facilities, and 5) other public attractions?

If linkages are provided between all 5 items listed, score 10 points

If linkages are provided between 3-4 items listed, score 7 points

If linkage is provided between 2 items listed, score 4 points.

9. Determine the degree to which the project provides evidence of local support.

If evidence of local support is demonstrated through letters from citizens and trail groups, score 10 points.

If evidence of local support is demonstrated through responses at public meetings, score 7 points

If evidence of local support is demonstrated through response to recent surveys or other collected data, score 4 points

If evidence of local support is demonstrated poorly, score 0 points

10. Rate the project application preparation.

If the application is well prepared, answers all questions and provides a concise description of what is to be accomplished, score 10 points

If the application addresses most questions and provides a reasonable understanding of what is to be accomplished but creates questions for the reviewers, score 5 points

If the application has poor preparation and requires additional information or explanation, score 1 point,

11. Determine the Budget Cost Accuracy

If the application includes a cost estimate that appears reasonable and accurate for the activity proposed, score 10 points

If the application includes a cost estimate that does not appear realistic for the activity proposed, score 5 points

If the application includes a cost estimate that is not complete, appears significantly over or under budgeted or does not include a cost estimate, score 0 points.

12. Determine the source of the local match and score accordingly.

If the match is all cash and/or local appropriation, score 10 points

If at least 25% of the match is cash with appropriate documentation, score 5 points

If match is not provided OR no documentation is included to show match is secure, score 0 points

13. In addition to the specific criteria scored above, advisory board members may add up to 10 discretionary points for projects that are felt to be especially well thought out and will contribute significantly to needed trail opportunities.

**Additional Scoring Criteria**

In addition to the above scoring criteria, the Grant Administrator in consultation with the Director of Planning & Recreation Resources will score grant applications on the following criteria. Scoring on some of the following items may result in negative points.

- 1 Is this a project sponsor that has never received recreational trail funds? If yes, score 10 points. If no, score 0 points

2. If the project sponsor has received previous funding through the Recreational Trail Program, assess applicant's project administration and score according to the following:

The project sponsor has received funding before and successfully completed the project within original time frame without changes in the scope of work, score 8-10 points.

The project sponsor has received prior funding but not within the past 5 years, scores 7 points.

The project sponsor currently has an active trail grant, score 0 points.

Applicant has received prior funding (either through the Virginia Recreational Trail Program or the Virginia Outdoors/Land & Water Conservation Fund Program) and needed numerous extensions and/or changes in scope during the course of the project, score, negative 5 points

The project sponsor has active grants in either the Virginia Recreational Trail Fund Program or the Virginia Outdoors/Land & Water Conservation Fund Program that have some progress but not without substantial delays, time extensions and changes in scope, score negative 8 points.

3. Would funding this grant application aid in providing adequate geographic distribution of Recreational Trail Funds in the Commonwealth? If yes, score 5 points. If no, score 0 points.

**Total Score**